



TESTIMONY
OF THE
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 10, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before this joint committee on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Raised Bill 6359 "An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State and Appropriating Funds for the Prevention of Violent Crime"

Raised Bill 6359 would (1) authorize state bonds for the purposes of providing a grant-in-aid to municipalities for new police equipment, including, but not limited to, cameras, weapons, computers, lighting improvements and motion detectors; and (2) appropriate \$13 million in state aid to municipalities to prevent violent crime.

Crime is not exclusively a local or state issue and it respects no geographic or political boundaries. Recent surges in crime in parts of the state are cause for concern by everybody. Raised Bill 6359 would provide much needed assistance to address these concerns and reinvigorate the local-state partnership on public safety. Such an investment could focus attention on significant areas of concern which the General Assembly has championed in the past, such as;

- Enhancements to programs that prepare people for reentry into the community from prison or jail; with an emphasis on reentry strategies tailored to the needs of the communities – to ensure released prisoners are not returned disproportionately to major metropolitan areas without providing needed resources,
- Enhancements to parole oversight and supervision,
- Prioritizing violent crimes for speedy prosecution and adjudication, and
- Supporting overall public safety resources at the local level.

The funding proposed in Raised Bill 6359 is by no means a panacea for curing crime – however, such a timely investment can be the catalyst for a much needed commitment by the State to strengthen policies and funding streams for a problem faced by all levels of government.

CCM urges the committee to **favorably report Raised Bill 6359.**



If you have any questions, please call Bob Labanara or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000